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Dissident Voice Inside CIA Doubts Victory in Viet Nam

CPYRGHT

Washington, Aug. 22—(AP)—A CIA officer it was disclosed today, has voiced "serious doubt that victory can be won" in South Viet Nam and suggested that the outcome might be a negotiated settlement.

Administration sources said this is not the U. S. Government view.

The conclusion that no military end of the war against Red guerillas is in sight was expressed by Willard Matthias, a member of the Central Intelligence Agency's 12-man Board of National Estimates.

In a paper on "Trends in the World Situation," Matthias wrote that the Communist Viet Cong have stepped up their offensive, and the counter-guerilla effort "continues to flounder" under poor prosecution by the Saigon government.

Continued large-scale U. S. support of the anti-guerilla campaign and an end of "further political deterioration within South Viet Nam" could at least achieve "a prolonged stalemate," he said.

Matthias said there also is a chance that future developments "could lead to some kind of negotiated settlement based upon neutralization."

French President Charles de Gaulle has suggested neutralization of the area, an idea coolly received by the U. S. Government.

Administration sources made the document available after learning that it would be published in the Chicago Tribune. A magazine had turned it down. There was no explanation of

why Matthias was allowed to offer such a document for publication.

A cover sheet to Matthias' paper was released. Signed by Sherman Kent, chairman of the National Estimates Board, it stated that the paper "has general board approval, though no attempt has been made to reach general agreement on every point of it."

Aside from the Viet Nam reference, the document appeared to be a routine summary of the obvious changes in the world brought about by the nuclear stalemate between Russia and the United States and by the Chinese - Russian ideological conflict.

In releasing the paper, Administration sources emphasized these views:

—Matthias was expressing his own views, not those of the U. S. Government or of any agency within the U. S. Government.

—Matthias' memo was circulated among a few lower-ranking officials, but was never given to the policy-setting National Security Council.

—The campaign in South Viet Nam may be long and arduous, but the U. S. Government is fully committed to stemming the insurgents there and believes this will be done.

—The Government also sees no grounds for negotiation with the Reds over South Viet Nam at this time. A negotiated settlement was reached long ago at Geneva and it is up to the Communists to stop violating the accord.